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Red Cross in Pennsylvania

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MANUAL OF COOPERATION BETWEEN LOCAL COUNCILS OF DEFENSE AND LOCAL CHAPTERS OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS IN PENNSYLVANIA

In planning for civil defense in Pennsylvania the State Council of Defense wishes to utilize the services of existing agencies in order that the full resources of the State may be brought to bear in meeting any emergency which may arise. Read Bulletins Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the State Council of Defense for a designation of its duties and methods.

This bulletin is issued by the Pennsylvania State Council of Defense with the knowledge and approval of the American Red Cross to point out the division of responsibility between the American Red Cross and the State Council of Defense. Moreover, it contains suggestions through which Defense Council Units can organize for effective coordination of functions and productive cooperation in event of emergency, whether such emergency be peace-time disaster or one related to defense activities or war.

The first step in the program to coordinate the activities of the local Defense Council with those of the Red Cross Chapter is for the Chairmen of the organizations to establish a mutual understanding of responsibilities. This can be done only by personal contact and should include full discussion of the actual means of coordination in time of disaster or emergency.

While the Pennsylvania State Council of Defense has responsibilities relating to the entire economic industrial and agricultural life of the State, as well as with the whole problem of civil protection in the event of emergency, it is mainly in the latter field that the services of the American Red Cross will be needed. The Disaster Relief Service of the Red Cross is the service primarily concerned with civil defense or civil protection. Other Red Cross services, however, have definite resources and responsibilities, particularly First Aid, Water Safety and Accident Protection, Nursing and Volunteer Special Services.

Red Cross Chapters and Civil Defense Councils in Pennsylvania

The American Red Cross has 111 Chapters, 700,000 senior members, and 900,000 junior members in Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvana State Council of Defense has 30 County Councils of Defense, and several hundred Local Councils of Defense.

Local Councils of Defense are the official agencies by which the people of each community provide protection for themselves in passive or civilian defense measures. All defense efforts, national, state and local, should coordinate their activities so that there will be wide-open channels of cooperation and mutual aid in the civilian defense program between Washington, Harrisburg and each county, city and community in Pennsylvania. Wherever there is a local Chapter of the American Red Cross it should be related very closely to the Local Council of Defense.

Red Cross Disaster Service

Under the mandate of its Congressional Charter the American Red Cross has given relief in over 2,600 disasters during the past sixty years.

The problems which both the National Organization and Chapters of the Red Cross are planning to meet follow:

(a) peacetime disasters such as floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, fires, and explosions, which assume an increased importance in time of war and make even more valuable than under normal conditions the adequate preparedness and relief measures of the Red Cross, nationally and locally;

(b) an increased number of disasters such as fires, explosions and epidemics, which may be expected to result from the accelerated industrial activity incident to national defense;

(c) sporadic air or sea attacks, which are conceivable hazards in some coastal and boundary areas, the problems resulting from which would be similar to those encountered in peacetime disasters;

(d) sustained air or sea attacks, which, while not likely, are considered a possibility in some sections of the country; and

(e) an actual theatre of operations in continental United States which seems so remote as to be practically impossible.

Our President has proclaimed that a national emergency exists. No matter what difference of opinion exists as to the extent of involvement or danger, we must be ready—for anything. It is not too much to say that preparation should be made to meet even an enemy attack.

The American Red Cross has given assurances that it recognizes that it must be—as in fact it is—flexible enough to fit into whatever program may be deemed appropriate and necessary by the Pennsylvania State Council of Defense.

In the case of troop concentrations or military activities, such areas will be under military, rather than civil control, and in such situations the Red Cross is planning with the War Department concerning possible Red Cross functions on behalf of affected civilians. Similarly, the Red Cross assumes that, with respect to sustained air or sea attacks comparable to those occurring abroad today, the military rather than the civil authorities would be largely in control even though the affected area might not in every sense be comparable to what is generally referred to as a theatre of operations.

Sporadic or unsustained, sea or air attacks may be expected to bring about situations comparable to those encountered during earthquakes, hurricanes, or explosions and would mean providing on the basis of need for medical care, food, clothing, shelter and other basic necessities. The function of the Red Cross under these circumstances would be the same as in peacetime disasters and in disasters resulting from greater industrial or other preparedness activity.

It is extremely important, in time of disaster, clearly to differentiate between governmental responsibilities to the entire population within the affected area, and Red Cross responsibilities to the disaster-affected population. The following statement illustrates the division of these responsibilities.

DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITIES BETWEEN STATE COUNCILS OF DEFENSE IN COOPERATION WITH GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES, AND THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

Red Cross responsibility is to the disaster-affected population. The work is financed from Red Cross funds.

Assist local and state authorities in

1. Warning
2. Voluntary evacuation
3. Rescue
4. Medical care of persons sick or injured because of disaster (Supplemental assistance of personnel and supplies when needed)

Supply the needed emergency necessities of life

1. Shelter
2. Food
3. Clothing

Supply emergency services

1. Transportation of refugees
2. Transportation of supplies
3. Welfare inquiries
4. Communication between Red Cross Chapter and National Headquarters and within the Area
5. Survey of family losses

Rehabilitation of families with insufficient resources

1. Temporary maintenance
2. Building and repair of homes
3. Household furnishings
4. Medical aid
5. Occupational and agricultural assistance

Governmental responsibility is to the entire population within its jurisdiction. The work is financed from tax funds.

Protect persons and property

1. Maintenance of law and order
2. Warning the public of impending danger
3. Rescue of those in danger
4. Enforced evacuation
5. Emergency medical and hospital care of injured (civil defense committee)
6. Public health and sanitation
7. Fire precautions and protection
8. Condemnation of hazardous buildings and areas
9. Traffic control
10. Care of the dead
11. Survey of public damage

Carry on usual services expanded as necessary to meet emergency

1. Welfare
2. Health
3. Transportation (public)
4. Removal of debris from public property
5. Inspection of buildings
6. Communication (public)
7. Salvage of unclaimed property
8. Public institutions

Restoration of public property

1. Public buildings
2. Sewage systems
3. Water systems
4. Streets and highways
5. Other public projects

Advisory and referral services for individuals and groups

From the above, the need for early conferences between the local Defense Council Chairman and the Red Cross Chapter Chairman is evident. These conferences will contribute to an understanding of respective responsibilities.

The responsibility of the Red Cross in disaster relief is, first, for emergency relief for families and for individuals unable to provide such necessi-

ties as food, clothing, shelter, and medical care for themselves. Second, the Red Cross is responsible for the rehabilitation of families with insufficient resources.

The responsibility of the Governmental Agencies is related to such public safety activities as providing air raid shelters and safeguarding important points, the evacuation of personnel from threatened areas to safer districts, the maintenance of vital services including food, supplies, transportation services, electric, gas and water supplies, and postal, telegraph and telephone services, the treatment of casualties and the maintenance of first aid posts, hospitals and ambulances, the repair of damage caused by attack, including clearance of debris, fire fighting and road repairs, and anti-gas measures such as decontamination, gas proofing of homes, and individual and collective protection against gas.

Physicians and Nurses

Perhaps the field in which there is need for the most careful cooperation, and coordination of Red Cross activity with the activities of public authorities and with the additional state or local machinery now being created, is that involving first aid, medical and nursing care, and hospitalization. The Red Cross assumes that the primary responsibility for the care of the sick and injured in disasters rests with the local physicians, and that Red Cross medical service does not substitute therefor, but cooperates and assists as may be necessary in organizing and directing medical relief work and by providing facilities not available locally but which may be needed for the emergency. Consequently, the Red Cross welcomes the steps now being taken in many states and communities by the State and Local Councils of National Defense to stimulate activity on the part of the local physicians and surgeons and of those responsible for the hospitals to the end that such facilities may be in the best state of preparedness for meeting any emergency.

First Aid

The Red Cross issued approximately 200,000 certificates in First Aid in the State of Pennsylvania during the past thirty years. It has 1,489 First Aid Instructors in the State. It is essential that Civil Defense workers, such as auxiliary firemen and policemen, air wardens, shelter wardens, and those in similar services, be trained in First Aid. The Red Cross is prepared to train such groups upon the request of local Defense Councils. In addition it is hoped that many other residents of the State may have an opportunity to learn First Aid as immediate care of the injured is dependent upon the knowledge of First Aid on the part of those present at the time of the injury.

Home Nursing

The Red Cross in Pennsylvania has issued approximately 75,000 certificates in Home Nursing during the past twenty-five years. It is planned to increase the number trained during the coming year so that more women may be taught simple care of the sick in the home. It is important in these days when doctors and nurses are being called to military and naval service that each home maker have this knowledge. Local Defense Councils should

cooperate in this service by helping the local Red Cross Chapters to organize classes in Home Nursing.

Organized Volunteer Services of the Red Cross

Many thousands of Red Cross Volunteers in Pennsylvania are making garments for civilian victims of the war and surgical dressings for use abroad as well as for the U. S. Army. The skills they are developing are a definite resource if the necessity arises for similar services in the United States.

In addition to the production program, Red Cross volunteers are organized into Canteen Corps, Staff Assistance Corps, Motor Corps, Braille Corps, Nurse's Aide Corps, Hospital and Recreation Corps, and Home Service Corps. Civil Defense Councils should assist their local Chapters in strengthening their Red Cross services so that in any emergency this local resource may be utilized to the fullest extent.

Service to the Armed Forces

The American Red Cross maintains at Army and Navy stations Field Directors and Hospital Directors who are charged with assisting in welfare and morale activities of the armed forces. Working through the local Chapters these field directors serve as a means of communication between the armed forces and the people of the United States in accord with the Red Cross Congressional Charter.

Organization

In order that the local Councils may enjoy the fullest cooperation from the American Red Cross, it is urged that each Council include in its personnel a representative of the local Red Cross as an ex-officio member.

The Red Cross Chapter would welcome an arrangement for a member of the local Defense Council to meet with the Chapter Board, and with the committees for services related to National Defense plans.

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Defense Council Chairmen may expect supplementary bulletins to be released from time to time. These bulletins will outline methods for adapting peacetime disaster experience to problems arising out of a national emergency and war.

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The following publications and pamphlets outlining Red Cross policies and procedures and describing Red Cross services primarily concerned with civil defense are listed below and are available through local Red Cross Chapters.

Disaster Preparedness and Relief (ARC 209)
First Aid Program Planning for Chapters (ARC 1052)
Truck-Ambulances (ARC 209B)
The Red Cross Needs You (a description of Volunteer Special Services) (ARC 432)
Military and Naval Welfare Service (ARC 296)
Volunteer First Aid Detachment (ARC 1053).

BULLETINS PUBLISHED BY THE STATE COUNCIL OF DEFENSE

These bulletins are available for free distribution to Local Councils of Defense and responsible citizens. Please order by number.

Bulletin No.

1. The State Council of Defense Act
2. The Governor's Proclamation
3. Twelve Ways in Which Each Private Citizen of Pennsylvania Can Help Defend America
4. A Manual for the Organization of Local Councils of Defense in Pennsylvania
5. Women's Part in the Defense Program—by Mrs. Wm. J. Clothier
6. Education and Defense—Dr. Francis B. Haas
7. Industrial Preparedness for Defense in Pennsylvania—Hon. Mark James
9. Agriculture and Defense—Hon. John H. Light
10. Housing and Defense——C. V. Doyle
11. Volunteer Aircraft Spotters
12. Defense and the Consumer
13. A Community Recreation Program for Men in Uniform in Defense Time
14. Suggestions for State and Local Fire Defense
15. The Council of Defense and The Red Cross in Pennsylvania
16. Homes Registration for Defense Workers